

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2021

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Subcommittee on Defense  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Subcommittee on Defense  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair McCollum and Ranking Member Calvert:

We write to respectfully request that the Defense Subcommittee fund the Department of Defense (DoD) STARBASE Program at \$46 million for Fiscal Year 2022. This would represent a \$5 million increase in total enacted FY21 funding. This level of funding would allow DoD to launch approximately 10 new programs.

DoD STARBASE is an effective DoD outreach and STEM education awareness program for elementary and secondary school students. It provides 25 hours of outstanding STEM instruction, along with hands-on after school STEM activities. Students learn the importance of STEM skills in real world situations and develop essential math and science fundamentals, while fostering positive relationships between the military bases and local communities. Since its inception in 1993, DoD STARBASE has served over 1.4 million students from 33 states and territories, in more than 450 school districts.

Strong evidence-based evaluations of program participants show significant improvement in the students' understanding, interest, and ability in math and science, which has led to increased enthusiasm in pursuing STEM education. In 2019, knowledge scores of chemistry, engineering, math, physics and technology increased on average by 26.6% for all students, while favorability scores of math and science showed clear improvement. In addition, studies performed by Wilder Research on STARBASE Minnesota and by the University of New Mexico at STARBASE La Luz show that the program has potential long term benefits, increasing both high school graduation rates and college enrollment. Furthermore, STARBASE curricula are designed to reach students at the fifth-grade level that are underrepresented in critical areas of study and careers.

Nationwide, the program is one of the most cost-effective programs across the federal government, costing an average of only \$301 per student in 2019.

Despite the unprecedented global pandemic response during the 2020 school year, DoD STARBASE provided STEM engagement opportunities to 56,814 students in 1,189 schools and 409 school districts, while employing 372 personnel. An additional 41,491 students participated in supplemental programs during the school year.

Nationwide, DoD STARBASE locations documented 6,685 volunteers who contributed a total of 86,761 hours to the program valued at \$2,164,556, demonstrating the strong community support for the DoD STARBASE program.

DoD plans to approve the start-up of as many as 6 new STARBASE programs in 2021. More than a dozen additional locations remain on the waiting list for a DoD STARBASE program.

The program's volunteer support, and the robust demand for new programs in spite of funding uncertainty, are a testament to broad community support for the STARBASE program. With its national reach and broad record of success, STARBASE is a key tool in the DoD's ongoing national effort intended to close the STEM achievement gap with other nations, thus reinforcing our long-term security and prosperity. The program is a key tool in bolstering relationships between the DoD and local communities, through assured access to military installations while fostering awareness of military culture.

We therefore ask that the STARBASE receive your full support, and thank you for your past support of the program.

Sincerely,



**Alan Lowenthal**  
*Member of Congress*



**Tom Emmer**  
*Member of Congress*

*/S/ Jake Auchincloss*  
*Member of Congress*

*/S/ Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.*  
*Member of Congress*

*/S/ Cindy Axne*  
*Member of Congress*

*/S/ Nanette Diaz Barragán*  
*Member of Congress*

*/S/ Cliff Bentz*  
*Member of Congress*

*/S/ Ami Bera, M.D.*  
*Member of Congress*

*/S/ Donald S. Beyer*  
*Member of Congress*

*/S/ Stephanie Bice*  
*Member of Congress*

*/S/ Earl Blumenauer*  
*Member of Congress*

*/S/ Anthony G. Brown*  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Cheri Bustos  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ André Carson  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Judy Chu  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Jim Costa  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Sharice L. Davids  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Veronica Escobar  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Jenniffer González-Colón  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Jim Himes  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Kaiiali'i Kahele  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Robin Kelly  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Doris Matsui  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Gwen Moore  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Blake Moore  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Grace F. Napolitano  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Salud Carbajal  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Steve Cohen  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Angie Craig  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Mark DeSaulnier  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ John Garamendi  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Jahana Hayes  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Steven Horsford  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Eddie Bernice Johnson  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ John Katko  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Jim Langevin  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Michael T. McCaul  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Barry Moore  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Seth Moulton  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Ilhan Omar  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Jimmy Panetta  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Dean Phillips  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Elissa Slotkin  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Mark Takano  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Lori Trahan  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Juan Vargas  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Peter Welch  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Bill Posey  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Pete Stauber  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Dina Titus  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Michael R. Turner  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Jackie Walorski  
*Member of Congress*

/S/ Joe Wilson  
*Member of Congress*

